Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

DECEMBER 1984 MEETINGS
Foundation - December 13 - 8:00
Association - December 20 -7:30
...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

A WINTER'S WALK IN DEPOT TOWN

A Winter's walk in Depot Town
Unique in every way.
The stores are all so lovely
As in another day.
Shop windows facing Cross Street
Are brimming with good cheer
And River Street's an echo
Of Christmas yesteryear.

The Market's overflowing
With staples of the season.
The pubs are warm and friendly;
Good people are the reason.
New street lights take us back to times
When shoppers by the score
Would wave and smile and greet old friends
In Holiday decor.

It isn't only buildings
That preservation's keeping;
It's other ways and values
That such an ethic's reaping.
The train is at the depot.
The Huron River flows.
It's Christmas time in Depot Town
When its true spirit glows.

"PEGASUS"TO KICK OFF VICTORIAN HOLIDAY

Betsey Cook and Roger Marcus, will offer two programs of music for children with the focus on traditional folk music and a sprinkling of holiday songs. Participation is a large part of the program. Parents are invited to accompany their children and come prepared to have a good time.

1:00 and 3:00 P.M. Sunday November 25 in the Freight House Coffee Shop. FREE.

Betsey and Roger have been performing for the past two years in this area. Children as well as adults enjoy their concerts of traditional and classical music. They both teach in the area and live in Ann Arbor. Their instruments include mandolin, mountain dulcimer, guitar, percussion and voice. For more info about them, contact Betsey or Roger at 769-4143.

SPEND THE HOLIDAYS IN YPSILANTI'S HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

Your Window on the Past

Saturday, November 24
Santa's Parade starts here, continues to Downtown
Window Judging
Youth Bazaar - at Market

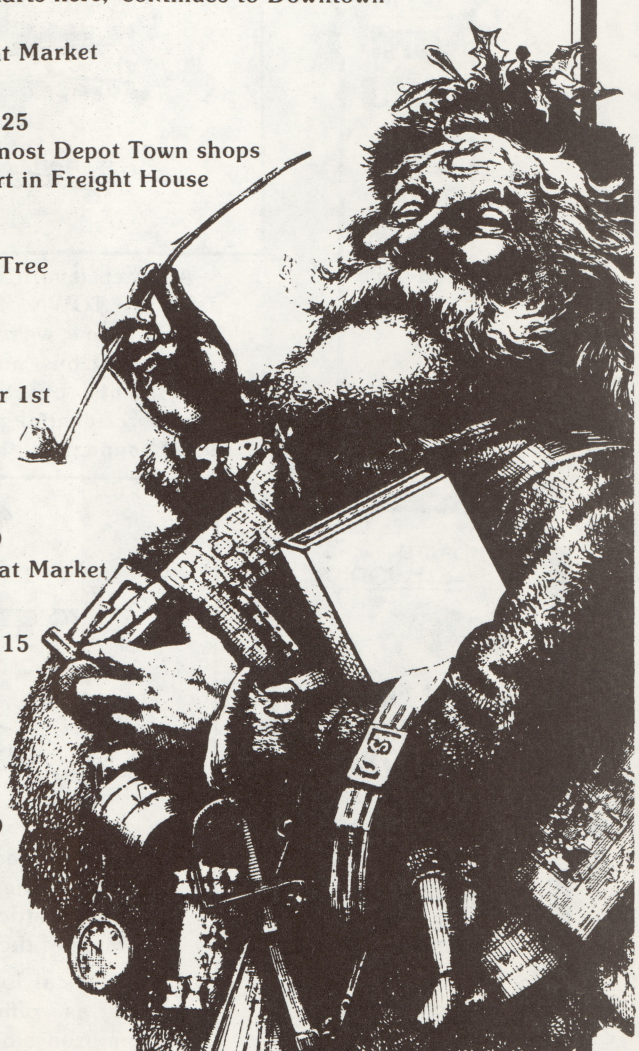
Sunday, November 25
Open Houses at most Depot Town shops
PEGASUS concert in Freight House
Carriage Rides
Carolling
Birds' Christmas Tree Trimming
Salvation Army

Saturday, December 1st
Holiday Crafts & Gift Show - at Market

Sunday, December 9
Antique Auction - at Market

Saturday December 15
Holiday Crafts & Gift Show - at Market

Saturday January 19
Winter Jazz Series Begins
(see back page)



Aubree's

Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons
Miller's
SINCE 1896
ICE CREAM
Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes
42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7546
"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.

GUIDED TOURS.....

SLICES OF DEPOT TOWN: design your favorite route around the neighborhood and we'll print it here in The Rag.

Now that the bridge is open again and we have better access to parking on the north side of Cross Street, many are finding that the most pleasant traffic patterns in Depot Town are not always the "straight shots" east or west. Therein lies our new contest. We encourage our readers to trace their own favorite Depot Town routes on the accompanying map (which conveniently leaves out streets, sidewalks and railroad in order to encourage creative meandering).

Add descriptions, explanations and personal hints, then leave it in the Caboose mail slot...and we'll print it in an up-coming issue of The Rag.

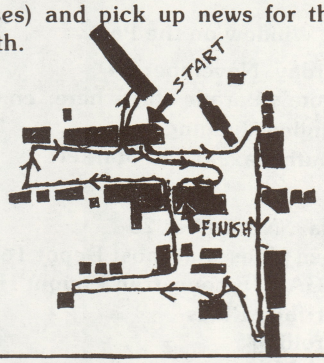
Other possible "Slices" of Depot Town:

- *Route of the Suggested People-Mover*
- *Best Views of Ypsilanti's Magnificent Towers*
- *Indian Trails from Long Ago*
- *A Guide to the Celebrated Tunnels*
- *The Drunkard's Tour*
- *Most Munificent Landlord Tour (A Renters Guide)*
- *Antiquers' Tour (including routes to Downtown)*
- *Grocery Shopping Tour*
- *Train-watcher's Tour*
- *Kids' Tour, including good fishing spots, play areas, locations of pop, candy, comics, games, toys.*
- *Access to Rooftops*

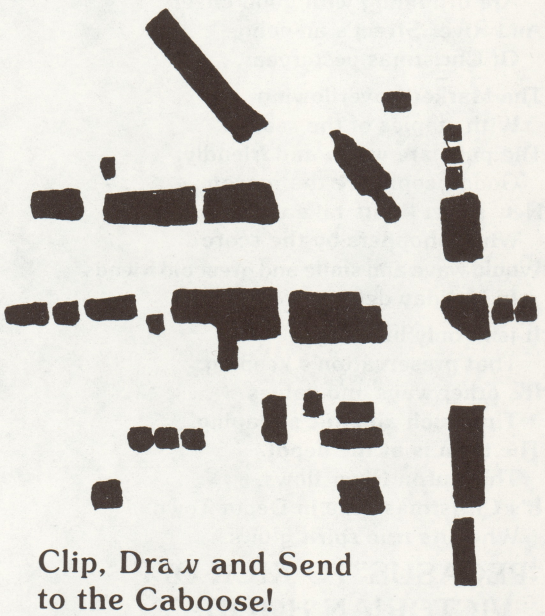
Obviously, this list of Tours could be as diverse as our population. Trace yours on the accompanying map. We'd love to print your "slice" here.

IKE'S
DEPOT
TOWN
BARBER
SHOP
40
E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

Here, for instance, is our monthly PAPER ROUTE as we deliver The Rag to our distributors (our neighborhood businesses) and pick up news for the next month.

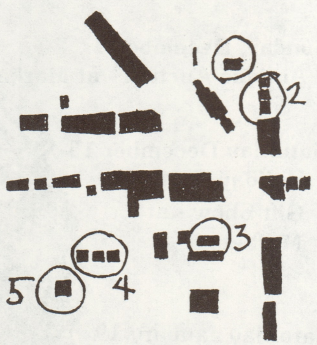


Another favorite tour of ours is the DEPOT TOWN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT. Now, we're not talking about the many spacious and dramatic upstairs apartments, but the nine, (count 'em) single residential properties within our legal boundaries.



Clip, Draw and Send to the Caboose!

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDLECRAFT FRAMING OF OBJECTS ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN



1. Reported to be the oldest frame dwelling in the City, built by Mark Norris, an early settler of Ypsilanti. A classic example of the Greek Revival Style.

2. Local lore has it that these were built as officers' quarters and the Thompson block was the enlisted mens' barracks during the Civil War. We think the next house around the corner on Cross must be a fourth member of the group.

3. Was this ever the "mause" for the church next door? Looks like a typical Grandma's cottage to us.

4. "Company Houses", probably all built by the same builder over a period of years. We're not sure, but they are three neat little town houses set away from the busy life of the city on a pleasant side street.

5. Least obvious house in Depot Town, this remote and romantic location boasts a beautiful new paint job of grey and maroon, as well as a million-dollar view of the Huron River. We hope our putting it on the map does not devalue its special mystery and almost-secret location.

MORE NEWS FROM FROG ISLAND

Mud!

That seems to be the name of the game this month. The chldren are tracking in GOBS of the stuff. More and more digging goes on and more and more concrete goes in. Trenches EVERYWHERE. (The babies are in danger of falling in ALL THE TIME.) Leaves me frazzled. One thing, though, human traffic is down because of it. Leaves are gone. Time to hole up anyway. I'll come out occasionally during the cold time to check on progress. Surely by warm-up it'll all be done?

Nice new crunchy path on the dike top...makes easy going. All the new digging leaves fresh earth for tasty new grass when it's warm.

Enjoyed full moonlight the other night. Makes keeping track of the children easier.

I'm worried about the old cottonwood down by the bridge end of the yard. Too much dirt on the roots, too much trenching. I'm concerned for that old friend. Hope the humans know what they're doing? Down on the other end of the yard I went to see the new road to the river. The new concrete wall covered up some wonderful hiding places, but next summer after the new grasses grow, there'll be more.

Mrs. Possum and I take evening strolls just to keep track of what's happening. We were visiting with the apartment dwellers on the riverbank the other night. They tell me that most of the Mallard family have gone away for the season. I'll miss them with their gentle quacking all night.

The water line is up for the season. Have to be careful about flooded basements now.

First white blanket – signals the beginning of the quiet time. Think I'll have a cup of tea and snooze a while. Hmmmm.

Somnolently,
Mrs. Woody Chuck

RAG BAG

The Ypsilanti Food co-op presents "Cooking Encounters" Saturday December 8 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the co-op. This month features a display of recipes, samples and information regarding GOODIES FOR THE HOLIDAY'S. The Ypsilanti Food Co-op is located at 312 N. River in Depot Town, and more information can be obtained by calling 483-1520. The co-op is now open on Sundays from noon until 4 p.m.

Don't Miss the
HOLIDAY DELIGHTS
in the Freight House Coffee Shop
during the November 25 Open House.

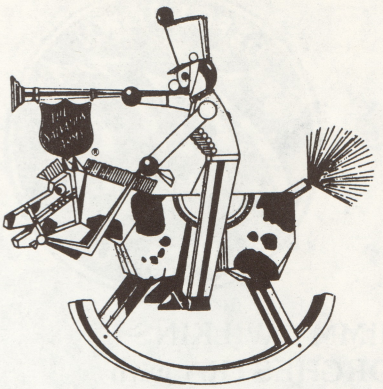
LETTING OFF STEAM

Dear Rag:

What's going on here? First the transformer blew and we had no electricity, then they knocked down our bridge. After that, they turned off the street lights. What's next? No sewers? If if wasn't for THE RAG, I'd have nothing to look forward to.

Pessimistic Paranoiac

ed. Lighten up. Things have to get worse before they get better.



SALVATION ARMY

One of our favorite Christmas activites is ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. Last year we competed, in an informal way, with the ringers at the K-Mart on Washtenaw – and beat them on each Saturday collection in the month before Christmas. Many individuals and businesses gave their annual (tax deductible) check to the Army through our bucket in Depot Town and their generous contributions certainly boosted our totals. We don't know of another philanthropic organization who has less overhead and more good works than the Army. Supporters are also encouraged to donate a few hours of ringing and greeting.

Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

482-0489
23 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Now and Then
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
Buy — Sell — Trade
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

Grand Trunk Ltd.
Formerly Rosemary's Corner
NEEDLE ARTS and
HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994

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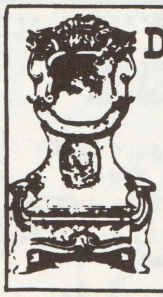
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

and everything nice

RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS
27 EAST CROSS

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different

COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town


DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E. Cross St. (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780
Furniture Stripping
Mention RAG ad & get 10% Discount

D.T.A. November, 1984

President McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the caboose.

TOM MANCHESTER made a short presentation about the December 10 bond issue election for $4.3 million for Perry School kindergarten and pre-school demolition and rebuilding.

$$$$Judy Andrews presented merchants' donations for Victorian Christmas committee.

Minutes were read and approved. Greg Dodd presented the Treasurer's report in Eric Ward's absence: General Fund $3159.96, Special Events $888.33, Rag $2.48, Jazz $2940.00, Total balance $6990.77.

Secretary reported Washtenaw Council for the Arts dues were due and read a communication with the Ypsilanti Press.

FARMERS' MARKET ADVISORY BOARD members Mary Liskow and Paul Fetters reported: Much dialog included multi-use of the facility, community activity center capabilities, long-range Freight House plans, more viable winter market, health department regulations, meat and fish installations, Councilmember Bubenhofer will arrange for us to speak to some of these issues at Council meetings in December. Norm Lawson is Paul Fetters' alternate to the Advisory Board from Depot Town merchants.

RAG REPORT: Bonnie Rosen-Fine sees $1074.00 in collectible accounts to finish the year. At the current costs we should have a surplus which can result in better advertising rates for 1985. As of January, ads must be paid in advance. The December issue will be on the street for the Victorian Open Houses.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the Association occurs in '84 - '85. Dodd, Andrews, McKeever, Suczek will make a proposal at the December meeting for it's observation.

WASHTENAW COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS now includes fifty-four organizations and DTA will resubscribe. Annual meeting is next Tuesday.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS begins with the November 25 Open Houses throughout the block. Don Shankwiler has a huge Christmas tree in mind if we will haul it. Ray Packer will help to welcome Santa to the block and will be at the Caboose from noon until three the first Sunday. Joe Wizauer continues his special on greens. Santa will be at GRAND TRUNK LTD. for the entire holiday. Carriage rides will tour the block. Salvation Army and carollers will be on hand. YPSI FOOD CO-OP will hold a Bake Sale in the Coffee Shop. Music, story-tellers and actors will perform at one and three p.m. Window judging will take place Saturday before the open houses. Judges will accept the usual bribes.

HALLOWEEN PARTY entertained over two hundred children with a surplus of $138.33 going back to the events fund. Merchants and Association underwriting made it possible. Thanks to Bonni Rosen-Fine for chairing the event.

BILLBOARDS saying "Shop Ypsilanti's Historic DEPOT TOWN, food, entertainment, gifts, antiques," will go up about January 15th. Bill French will help determine locations, contracts total an obligation of $215 a month.

PRIORITIES update was given by Jerry Meadows: Signage plans, New Years' Eve party, MidTown neighborhood organization, MillWorks for sale and parts are sold, City Body is listed for sale, many Toy and Train show requests are extant.

DEPOT TOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY report by Greg Dodd announced a meeting Wednesday December 5 in the Caboose. Agenda: Market street plan, space availability in Depot Town and Downtown, breakfast meeting with Downtown, Michigan Municipal League Conference on Mainstreet, the Huron River corridor.

JAZZ flyer is ready to be mailed to 10,000. Season tickets are $18.00, door tickets are $7.00. First concert is Saturday, January 19. Doors open at 6:30 with first performance at 7:00 p.m. Amy is ticket chair, Paul Fetters has clean-up. More help is needed at 3 p.m. to set up. Committees meet first week in December.

MEMBERSHIP print-out was presented by Barbara Lohr showing paid and unpaid members. How will we follow this up?

BY-LAWS proposed (in the third draft form) with copies posted at MILLER'S ICE CREAM PARLOR, to be voted on the DECEMBER 21 meeting of the Association.

HURON RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL requests we feature the block's traditional relationship to the River whenever possible. It was here before the railroad and is part of our song and sustenance. Don't drink the water!

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

NEW BY-LAWS PROPOSED

After a four-month study, the By-Laws Review Committee has proposed new rules for the operation of D.T.A.'s neighborhood programs. Unique among the proposals are (1) passing the monthly meetings on to the executive board, heads of committees and any members interested, (2) holding quarterly meetings for the entire membership in an atmosphere more conductive to "Depot Town Meetings" which are more akin to a block party than the previous monthly meetings, (3) four standing committees: Program and Events, House (caboose control), Public Relations, and Long Range Planning. Most of the rest of the proposal is similar to the present document. After reading the proposal at the November meeting, it must be published throughout the neighborhood, then voted on at the January meeting. Many thanks to the committee for their long hours and thoughtful assessment of how to facilitate the business of the Association.

Depot Town Rag

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Gary McKeever, president

(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Annual dues:

Associate member $10
Regular member $25
Sustaining member $100

WCA Washtenaw Council for the Arts

Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC

307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, Michigan

Phone 483-1238

Hansen's

STANDARD PRINTING

"Historic Depot Town"

Ypsilanti 483-0339

We Print the Depot Town Rag

DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION AND W.E.M.U.

WEMU and the Depot Town Association proudly announce the fourth annual Depot Town Winter Jazz Series. Once again old friends and new from all around southeastern Michigan will meet, mix and be merry in the historic Farmers' Market Building in Ypsilanti. The atmosphere is rustic, down-home and jovial. The music, always excellent, promises to be better than ever this year.

We are improving our staging and lighting, further limiting the seating for improved comfort and visibility, expanding our food service for those who want to dine with us and we are, of course maintaining our full service bar, which includes coffee, teas, fruit juices, beer, wine and liquor.

We are expanding our music this year, too, with live cocktail and dinner music starting at 7:00 P.M. You are invited to come a little early for a drink or a light meal and warm up with our opening act. Our evening's headliner will play a 90 minute sit-down concert at 8:00 P.M. Then, in the grand Depot Town tradition, we will pull back some chairs and boogie our winter blues away with two sets of terrific dance music. This combination of listening and dancing, a complete musical experience, is what makes the Winter Jazz Series one of the most popular events in Ypsilanti.

It has become so popular, in fact, that often we run out of room and have to turn people away. So why wait? Get hold of your favorite party people right now, tell them to reserve the third Saturday of January, February and March and order season tickets for everyone. You will save money and guarantee yourself a seat at the Winter of 85's hottest gig – the Depot Town Winter Jazz Series.

Saturday January 19
"A TRIBUTE TO COUNT BASIE"
The JIMMY WILKINS ORCHESTRA
with special guest DENNIS ROWLAND
plus The ANDERSON/REED DONDERO TRIO

Jimmy Wilkins comes by his "basically Basie" style honestly: he worked with Count Basie's big band in the 1950's. The opening 8:00 P.M. set, "A Tribute to Count Basie," will re-unite Jimmy with another Basie alumnus, singer Dennis Rowland, a Detroiter who broke into the business with the Willkins band before touring with County Basie for six years. The Wilkins Orchestra was a smash at their Depot Town premiere in 1982. No surprise – the band has been among Detroit's most venerable musical institutions since 1957.

Dinner and cocktail music start at 7:00 P.M. with a most auspicious set of players: Guitarist Mark Anderson, pianist Harvey Reed and Bassist Bruce Dondero have all been winners in the WEMU Jazz Competition.

Saturday, February 16
The KAMAU KENYATTA QUINTET
The LITTLE SONNY BLUES BAND
with special guest JOE L.
Plus MR. B.

Kamau Kenyatta is one of Detroit's most respected younger musicians. He's an excellent saxophonist, a fine pianist, an ingenious composer and arranger and an inspired bandleader. This band's set was the highlight of the 1984 Montreux/Detroit Festival; Kenyatta's most recent album, "Bigger," was one of WEMU's most-played albums this past fall. Kamau spends winters in Florida; his appearance in Ypsilanti in February is a rare and delightful treat, not to be missed.

Little Sonny is widely recognized as one of Detroit's finest and most successful bluesmen, with several nationally released albums and a large local following to his credit. A galvanizing harmnonica player and a communicative singer, Sonny knows how to rock, boogie and sing the blues. His tight band will also feature a special appearance by Detroit pianist Joe L., who Sonny thinks deserves more recognition than he's been getting. We think you will agree.

Mr. B. is perhaps Ann Arbor's premiere blues and boogie pianist. He'll be tinkling the ivories beginning at 7:00 P.M.; come early, grab a drink and a bite to eat and get in the mood with this young master.

Saturday, March 16
"A TRUMPET SUMMIT
THE RAYSE BIGGS QUARTET
with special guest RUSSELL GREEN
DOMINO
plus The JOE LODUCA DUO

Between them, Rayse Biggs and Russell Green cover most of jazz trumpet history. Biggs is one of the youngest and best of the city's hornmen; Green is the dean of Detroit trumpeters, a Motor City mainstay since the early 1940s. Swing and trad jazz meet bebop and beyond on this very special occasion. This confluence of youth and wisdom will be backed by Biggs' excellent working quartet, including pianist Bill Evans, drummer George Davison and former Sun Messenger bassist Kurt Krahnke. If you like the sound of sweet, hot trumpets, this show is for you.

Domino is simply the hottest dance band in the area. Four excellent singers, steeped in Detroits' black vocal tradition, backed by a tight five piece band, covering rhythm and blues favorites from the 1950s and 1960s. This will be an absolute must for lovers of sweet soul music and dancers from any era.

The noted Detroit guitarist Joe LoDuca's excellent duo will provide elegant music starting at 7:00 P.M. Best known for leading an electric band and supplying the theme music for PBS's Latenight America, Joe has a pretty, intimate, soulful side to his impressive talent as well. Come early for some food, drink, and the delightfully relaxing music of a top Detroit musician.

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT: SEASON TICKETS TO THE WINTER JAZZ SERIES

Concert series at $18.00 each. Concerts are located in the Farmers' Market building in Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town. Doors open at 6:30 P.M. Show time is 7:00 P.M. Aubree's Second Floor will be offering specials with series tickets. For more information call 487-2229.

Mail Order deadline January 10, 1985. Make check or money order payable to:
DEPOT TOWN JAZZ
Send order to: WEMU 426 King Hall
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Ann Arbor: Schoolkids' Records, P.J.'s Records, Little Professor Bookstore
Ypsilanti: Huckleberry Party Store, Tom's Party Store, most Depot Town businesses.

Tickets for individual concerts go on sale at the above listed outlets three weeks before each show. Individual tickets will cost $7.00 and will also be available at the door the night of the show.

ORDER A PAIR OF SERIES TICKETS AND SAVE $6.00....MAKES A GREAT GIFT.

DEPOT TOWN
Jazz
Winter Series
W·E·M·U

JIMMY WILKINS ORCHESTRA with DENNIS ROWLAND

The ANDERSON/REED DONDERO TRIO

KAMAU KENNYATTA QUINTET

The LITTLE SONNY BLUES BAND with Joe L. MR. B.

The RAYSE BIGGS QUARTET with RUSSELL GREEN

DOMINO

The JOE LODUCA DUO
WINTER JAZZ SERIES !!!!!!

Have an
OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS!

ACTION CALENDAR

With this promotion calendar, many loyal workers are needed. Name your favorite project and claim ownership. Help others achieve their goals, as well. How many neighborhood events will you support with your volunteerism?

Stick your name in the appropriatre places and return this strip to the Caboose or to the chair of the event. This train is on the right track...and it needs a full crew. Welcome aboard!

November
VICTORIAN HOLIDAY (Wizauer)

December
VICTORIAN HOLIDAY continues
- open houses
- publicity
- window recognition
- parade w/CBC

January
JAZZ SERIES #1 (C. McKeever)
- set up
- tickets
- publicity
- bartending
- security
- clean-up

February
JAZZ SERIES #2 (C. McKeever)

March
JAZZ SERIES #3 (C. McKeever)

April
CASINO (Richie)

May
STEAM TRAIN TRIP (The Rag)

June
FROG ISLAND JAZZ FEST (C. McKeever)

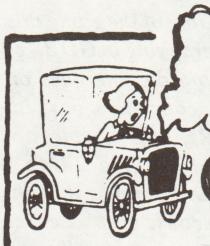
July
BOOMER DAYS (Rosen-Fine)
- publicity
- events
- hobo king and queen

August
HERITAGE JAZZ COMPETITION (C. McKeever)
- set-up
- bartending
- clean-up

GREAT TRAIN RACE (G. McKeever)
FREIGHT HOUSE ACTIVITIES (Meadows)

September
FALL FARM FAIR (Urick)

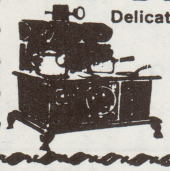
October
APPLE HARVEST
KIDS' HALLOWEEN PARTY

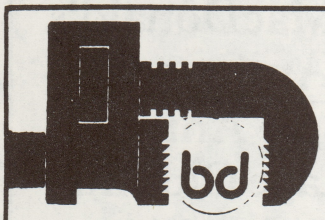

CITY RADIATOR
110 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
483-2248

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

a non-profit business serving depot town

YPSI FOOD COOP
312 N. RIVER 483-1520
open: Monday-Friday 10-7, Saturday 9-6

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE

Delicatessen and Catering
In Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Receptions


B & D RETAIL PLUMBING and HEATING, INC.
Richard C. Laflin
310 N. River · 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
483-1035

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM

"To your good health"
FOR YOUR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
Stop By!
Weds & Sat 7-2
in historic Depot Town
★ Fresh Cider, Farm Eggs, Mich. Apples!
★ Fruits and Vegetables, Nuts!
★ Home Baked Goods · Coffee Shop!
GOOD SELECTION · FAIR PRICES